Commission of Centre-State Relations. Out of 247 recommendations made by the Sarkaria Commission, *the* ISC has so far taken a decision in respect of 171 recommendations.

Article 356 has been the subject matter of discussion in the meeting of the Standing Committee of the Inter-State Council, In the sixth meeting of the Standing Committee held on 19.12.1998, the subject was remitted to a Sub-Committee consisting of the Chief Ministers of Uttar Pradesh, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh and Finance Minister of West Bengal under the Convenorship of the Union Defence Minister. The matter was also discussed in the fifth meeting of the Inter-State Council held on 22.12.1999 in which it was decided that the Sub-Committee under the Convenorship of the Union Defence Minister should continue deliberations to evolve a consensus. This Sub-Committee has recently been reconstituted by the Prime Minister and comprises Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Finance Minister of West Bengal. The Sub-Committee will be convened by the Union Defence Minister. The Inter-State Council is yet to take a final view in the matter.

Insurgency in the North-East

371. PROF, M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that North-East has become a safe haven for foreigners and infiltrators due to the rise of insurgency in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof: and

(c) the number of arrests of such insurgents made during the past five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) A large number of foreigners have illegally infiltrated into the North Eastern Slates. The borders of Assam, Tripura, Manipur, Nagaland and the tri junction area bordering southern Mizoram with Myanmar and Bangaladesh arc used by militant groups for infiltration and for arms smuggling.

(c) 6222 militants have been arrested in the North Eastern States during 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000 (upto June 30).